

and to reduce the burden of Government, which in turn reduces taxes for the American people.

States will have authority to design their own programs to lift the poor out of poverty and to give them hope for the future.

We can not deny this opportunity for the citizens of this country. Let us join forces to pass this pro-country, pro-responsibility, and pro-family legislation.

DEMOCRATS UNITE

(Mr. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, last night Democrats united on welfare reform. We showed the American people that Democrats from across the country, from Mississippi to New York, from New Mexico to Maine, from left to right ideologically were able to come together and fight the Republican war against hard-working middle-class Americans and children.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of Republicans walking around with broken arms nursing their wounds because of the pounding they took from their leadership.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic plan says no work, no welfare. Our plan is tough on fraud and abuse in welfare. It cuts Federal bureaucracy and gets people back to work. It puts savings into deficit reduction for middle-class Americans and prevents Republicans from giving special interests a tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican contract with special interest America is collapsing. Democrats are back. Our contract is with hardworking middle-class America and we are going to keep it.

CHANGING THE WELFARE MESS

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, when President Clinton was a candidate, he promised to end welfare as we know it. But for the past 2 years, neither the President nor the Democrat-controlled Congress did a thing to change the welfare mess.

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Then came November, and the American people said it is time for a change. Now the Republican majority is doing something that the Democrats could never bring themselves to do. We are changing the current broken-down welfare system that traps people in a hopeless cycle of dependence into a system that offers hope for the future.

Tough work requirements, personal responsibility, and emphasis on the family. The change is here.

WELFARE REFORM

(Mr. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the welfare reform legislation we have been considering this week has critical implications for our Nation's children. Coupled with the rescission package this body passed last week, and the promise of further cuts in programs for our children to pay for tax cuts for the richest percent of Americans, we are facing the complete dismantling of the safety net for children.

This past weekend, I held a town meeting in my congressional district to seek the views of those from the front lines who deal with troubled children on a daily basis on the consequences of the welfare reform package pushed by Gingrich and the Republicans. The rescission proposals. I heard from a broad spectrum of people—children's advocates, the educational and medical communities, professionals in child care and child protection services, the mayor of our largest city, parents and children themselves.

The picture they painted was one of abandonment—abandonment of the Federal commitment to supporting children and families. In these times when entitlement has become a dirty word, they graphically reaffirmed why entitlements exist, and how critical they are to the well-being of the children of this Nation. They also confirmed that we will be shortsighted, indeed, if we cut the fiscal lifelines that mean education, jobs, innovation, training, in our low-income communities, and our children will suffer more.

THE CONTRACT AND WELFARE REFORM

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, this morning we will pass the Personal Responsibility Act of 1995. This is by far the most sweeping and far-sighted piece of social welfare legislation to come out of Congress in the last 40 years. We not only provide a true safety net for those less fortunate in our society, but we do so in the larger contexts of fiscal accountability and personal responsibility.

We save hard-working American families \$69 billion, while putting more food on the plates of hungry children. This is the true spirit of our Contract With America.

Last November, Americans decided that they no longer wanted a government at odds with the people, but rather a government that worked in partnership with the people. A subtle yet striking difference in leadership.

This welfare reform package, and the contract as a whole, give the American people the leaner, more efficient, and dramatically more responsive Federal

Government that they demanded last November.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of this legislation, and I am proud of our contract. We are keeping our promises, and I believe that is what our democracy is all about.

MAKING WAR ON POOR CHILDREN

(Mr. OLVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans say that the war on poverty has been lost so they are making war on poor children instead. I have got to hand it to them, though, they do not just target welfare kids, the Republican contract on America cuts income and food stamps and school breakfast and lunches, and nutrition for young mothers and care for abused children, and day care for children while their parents work, \$50 billion in cuts for nearly 10 million families whose income is less than \$20,000 a year, both working families and nonworking families, the Republicans do not seem to care which, families where more than 20 million children get their start in life.

Are the Republicans using those \$50 billion to cut the explosion of deficits from 12 years under voodoo economics? Not on your life. They are using those \$50 billion taken from low-income families and their children to give tax cuts to the richest 2 percent of Americans.

Only in NEWT GINGRICH's America would taking \$50 billion from 25 percent of Americans and giving it to American millionaires be even thinkable.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY

(Mr. GILCHREST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to talk to you about the drug taxol. Taxol was first used on a trial basis in 1983 to treat ovarian and breast cancer. Today, it is the most effective treatment for achieving remission in advanced ovarian cancer. It took researchers over 20 years, testing thousands of plant and animal extracts from all over the world to come up with a safe and effective compound able to kill cancer in humans. Now, taxol gives new hope to many of the women who suffer from breast and ovarian cancer, which now kills almost 40,000 women a year.

This amazing drug was originally derived from a tree called the Pacific yew. The yew tree is found in the old growth forests of the Pacific Northwest and was once burned as scrap. It takes from 3 to 12 trees to provide enough taxol for each cancer patient. Each tree takes about 100 years to reach maturity.